

Remarks/Arguments

In the specification, the following amendments have been made:

The paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10, and ending at page 4 line 18 has been amended to remove an extraneous comma. No new matter is added by this amendment.

In the claims, the following amendments have been made:

Dependent claims 29-32 have been added to claim, respectively, the method of claim 1, the system of claim 9, the computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15, and the graphical user interface of claim 23, wherein the information sources of each of the respective claims are selected from the group of structured information sources, semi-structured information sources, unstructured information sources, and combinations thereof. Support for these added claims may be found in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8, the paragraph on page 8, lines 2-8, the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14, and the paragraph on page 14, lines 5-14. No new matter is added thereby.

All remaining changes, throughout the specification and in claims 1-2, 8-10, 14-16, 22-23, consist of changing references to “structured data” or “structured data having a common format” so that they now read simply as “data having a common format” or equivalent language.

These changes have been amended for purely semantic reasons. Specifically, as originally submitted, the application utilized the term “structured data,” to describe the output of the present invention. Within the specification as originally filed, at page 7, lines 17-19, the applicant defined at least one of the possible inputs as including “structured information sources.” The applicant had thus used the adjective “structured” in the description of both the output, and at least one of the inputs, of the invention. While the dual use of the term “structured” to describe both inputs and outputs is accurate in a technical sense, (in at least one embodiment, the method and system of the present invention does in fact convert a “structured information source” into “structured data”) upon further reflection, the applicant has

determined that the use of the word “structured” in the description of both an input and the output of the invention is unnecessarily confusing. Therefore, throughout the specification, and within the claims, the applicant has opted to describe the output of the present invention as “data in a common format,” “data having a common format” or “data in said common format.” By the amendments contained herein, the applicant has therefore removed the adjective “structured” in each and every instance where it was previously used to describe the output of the present invention. However, should the examiner notice an instance where the applicant has overlooked such a use, the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner bring such to the applicant’s attention so that appropriate correction may be made.

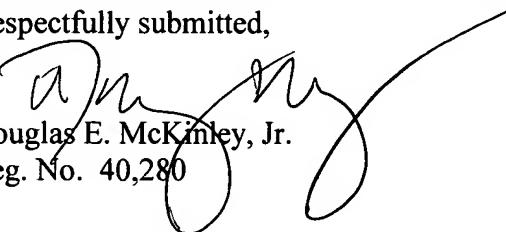
It should be noted that “data in a common format” continues to qualify as a “structured information source” and as “structured data,” as those terms are used and defined in the specification. The amendments contained herein should not, therefore, be interpreted as in any way changing this meaning of “structured data,” or as otherwise limiting the scope of the disclosure or claims. Indeed, the claims should continue to be interpreted as including output that would fit the definition of “structured data.” By using the alternative nomenclature contained within these amendments, the applicant is merely attempting to provide greater clarity to the specification and claims, by eliminating any possible confusion over when the specification and claims are referring to outputs as opposed to inputs, potentially created by the applicant’s prior use of the word “structured” in both instances. It remains the case that the input data may in some cases include “structured” data and it remains the case that the output, “data in a common format,” is also “structured.” The applicant has simply applied the convention of calling the output “data in a common format” to avoid any potential for confusion.

The specification as originally filed is replete with support for the forgoing amendments. Specifically, at page 3, lines 21-22, the applicant states: “More particularly, the invention is related to systems and methods that parse the plurality of information sources into a common format.” Throughout the remainder of the specification as originally filed, the applicant repeatedly references “structured data having a common format.” At page 17, lines 11-12, the applicant states that “[t]he user then has the opportunity to communicate the

structured data to an application that is configured to receive data having the common format.” Plainly, the key feature of the output data as originally described by the applicant is that it is in a “common format” and the original use of the word “structured” was merely as an adjective which was duplicative of the more functional description of the output as “having a common format.” The use of the adjective “structured” in describing “data having a common format” is thus entirely optional, and its removal neither adds nor subtracts from the either the scope or substance of the original disclosure in the specification and claims as filed, since the output data continues to be described as “having a common format.” No new matter is therefore added by any of these amendments.

The applicant has made a good faith attempt to place the application and claims in condition for allowance, and action towards that end is hereby requested. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should the examiner have any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,


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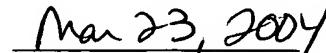
The undersigned hereby certifies that the forgoing Preliminary Amendment dated March 23, 2004 together with a power of attorney and change of correspondence address form, and return postcard are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on the date set forth below.



Hope Houck



Date